



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Johnny Key, Commissioner*

---

September 29, 2015

CONTACT: Kimberly Friedman

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

[kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov](mailto:kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov)

## **Arkansas Students' Advanced Placement Participation and Qualifying Scores Improve**

**LITTLE ROCK** — CollegeBoard has released the Advanced Placement, SAT, and PSAT/NMSQT scores for the 2014-2015 school year, and Arkansas students continued to show improvement.

"AP participation and performance is an important benchmark for how Arkansas is raising the bar for educational excellence," Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key said. "AP students will not only be better prepared for college, but they will also be more likely to graduate from college. The growth of AP participation and results demonstrate that the hard work of educators is paying off."

A total of 25,757 public school students took an AP Exam in 2015, an increase of 0.8 percent over 2014 and an increase of 21.8 percent over 2011 (21,149). Because individual students may take more than one AP Exam, in 2015 Arkansas students took 44,951 AP Exams, an increase of 1.2 percent over 2014.

"I am pleased to see this increase in Advanced Placement scores because it is an indication of the preparedness of students for college," said Arkansas Department of Higher Education Director Brett Powell. "There are many studies that show that students who complete rigorous courses such as these in high school are more likely to successfully complete a college degree and complete it on time."

By participating in AP courses, students not only participate in advance work, but they may also earn valuable college credit if they score high enough. While colleges differ on the cut score for credit, generally AP scores of three through five are accepted for college credit.

A total of 8,680 students, or 33.7 percent, of AP Exam takers scored three or higher on at least one AP Exam in May 2015, an increase of 1.1 percent over 2014 scores and an increase of 27.5 percent over 2011 scores. The performance of students with scores of three or higher increased for all groups except Caucasian students, where there was a decrease of 2.2 percent. Hispanic students increased

by 15.3 percent, Asian students increased by 13.0 percent and African-American students increased by 2.7 percent.

CollegeBoard also produces the SAT, which is a college entrance exam equivalent to the ACT and accepted by many colleges, and the PSAT/NMSQT, which is an exam commonly given in the 10th grade and reports AP potential for students. Currently, Arkansas pays for AP participation for students. Students interested in fee waivers for the SAT or PSAT/NMSQT can visit the CollegeBoard website: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>.

[Follow us on Twitter @ArkansasEd.](#)

[Like us on Facebook at Arkansas Department of Education.](#)

**ArkansasEd.****.org**

Arkansas Department of Education | Four Capitol Mall | Little Rock, AR 72201

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR | 72201 US

This email was sent to kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov.  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

